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Mufti Is Barred From Egypt; He Seeks Pakistan Asylum

**Moslem Leader's Request
Paves Karachi Problem**

—Reply Is Awaited

2-6-73-2609

By MICHAEL JAMES

Associated Press Writer

KARACHI, Pakistan (UPI)—

Mufti Amin al-Husseini

Grand Mufti of Jerusalem has been

told by Cairo that he may not

return to Egypt. The religious

leader, who is in Karachi, has

urged Pakistan for asylum.

Although the news of the Mufti's request became generally known among diplomats here today, Egyptian officials refused finally to make any comment. The Foreign Office said no deliberations on the subject were still "top secret."

It is understood that Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Government in effect acted even after seeing a report, when the Mufti was there, about upcoming conferences of Moslem religious leaders.

The Egyptian action was viewed here as a move to cut down on the effectiveness of the Moslem conference, known to be led by the mufti on points of religion and, indirectly by him, in political

(Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

**Mufti Denies the Report
He Is Barred From Egypt**

By The United Press

KARACHI, Pakistan, March 1—

The former Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, today denied that he had been barred from Egypt and said there was "absolutely no truth nor any foundation" for the reports that he is seeking asylum in Pakistan. Such reports were published in New York today, he said.

The Mufti said he came to Pakistan specifically to attend a conference of religious leaders from Moslem countries. His plane, he said, will be indefinite all to the length of his stay.

The Mufti said he was "absolutely" returning to Egypt but might visit some Moslem countries en route. He denied emphatically that he planned to settle in Pakistan for any reason.

Spokesmen for the Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Embassy in Karachi said that the Mufti had not asked for asylum.

(Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

RETURN OF MUFTI BARRED BY EGYPT

Continued From Page 3

acted on orders of the Cairo Government.

It has been reported here that the late Prime Minister Liugui Ah Khan of Pakistan once offered Pakistani citizenship to the Mufti, probably as a move to win support among the Arab nations. At that time, before the Arab world turned down the offer.

Government Problem Difficult

The problem before Prime Minister Kismai Nasiruddin is a difficult one. The Mufti has a lot of influence among the more devout Moslems and rejecting his request for asylum would prove at a political difficulty. At the same time the government here has never actively supported the extreme steps taken by the Iranians and Egyptians toward foreign interests and has been happy to accept the recent political stabilization in Egypt.

The Mufti, who has been blamed for an endless series of acts of violence throughout the Moslem West, but specially in Palestine, is a man of mystery. One day last month he appeared in Karachi. No one seems to know just how he got here. Having gathered the press corps and nearly heard Mufti; spent a few days in Karachi's largest hotel. He then disappeared. He was somewhere in Karachi but no one knew exactly where.

He appeared at a number of major conferences held by Moslem religious leaders here during the month and even made a few public appearances. The conference, recently, resulted in the adoption of jihadist resolutions supporting Islamic unity.

It is impossible to know exactly where the Mufti obtains his money here. Several embassies guess that he suggests that wealthy Moslems make donations, although there are suggestions that the Mufti, whose external political affiliations are regarded as flexible, may benefit from financial aid from interested nations.

No Comment From Cairo

CAIRO, Feb. 29.—The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused today to comment on reports from Karachi that the Mufti of Jerusalem, who had been residing in Egypt, would not be permitted to return and had therefore asked to be permitted to stay in Pakistan.

A similar attitude was adopted by associates of the Mufti. They would neither verify nor deny the report.

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